**Exponents**

Any expression that involves exponents has 2 parts: the base and the exponent. The base is number that is being multiplied and the exponent is the small number that tells you how many times the base is going to be multiplied by itself.

**Examples:**

 The base is 4. The exponent is 3. This means that we should multiply 4 by itself 3 times 🡪 4 • 4 • 4 = 64

 The base is . The exponent is 8. This means that we should multiply  by itself 8 times 🡪  •  •  •  •  •  •  •  = 

 The base is 3x. The exponent is 2. This means that we should multiply 3x by itself 2 times 🡪 3x • 3x = 

**It’s important to remember that ONLY the number or variable directly in front of the exponent is being raised to that power!**

Look at the difference between these examples:

1. 

In the first problem, the only thing directly in front of the exponent is the 3. Therefore, the 3 is the only thing being raised to the second. In the second problem, the parentheses group the 3 and the negative sign. Therefore, -3 is directly in front of the exponent, so -3 is raised to the second power.

2. 

In the first problem, the only thing directly in front of the exponent is the x. Therefore, only the x is being raised to the second power. In the second problem, the parentheses group the 3 and the x together. Therefore, 3x is directly in front of the exponent, so 3x is raised to the second power.